

# news **W5YI**

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

BI-MONTHLY

## REPORT

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### ★ In This Issue ★

Ham Testing Halted in Puerto Rico  
Illegal CB Marketer Goes to Jail  
FCC Affirms New Novice Privileges  
Status of Amateur Question Pools  
FCC Short Two Commissioners  
September Amateur Radio Stats  
"FM America" Goes Off the Air!  
RF Lighting Rules to Continue  
Advanced TV Committee Established  
Home Satellite Dish Progress Report  
Radiation Health Hazards.  
What New in Consumer Electronics?  
"Old CC", First Voice of America  
...and much, much more!

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November 1, 1987

## VEC Ham Testing Halted in Puerto Rico

In an unprecedented action, the FCC has notified all Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC's) with amateur radio operator testing teams in the Caribbean that it no longer will accept the services of any accredited volunteer examiner in VEC testing Region 12. All amateur testing operations were ordered suspended effective immediately.

The ARRL, DeVry and W5YI VEC have received letters from John B. Johnston, W3BE, (Chief, FCC Personal Radio Branch) cancelling the accreditation of all Region 12 VE's "because of widespread irregularities in the volunteer examiner system in Puerto Rico..." The action was taken in accordance with §Part 515(b) of the rules which permit the government to decline the service of volunteer examiners certified by a VEC. While the League and W5YI-VEC programs did have active testing programs in Puerto Rico, DeVry has never coordinated a test session in VEC Region 12.

The FCC has been carefully monitoring the progress of its volunteer examining program. While saying he was pleased with the overall progress of the VEC system, FCC's Ray Kowalski, Chief, Special Services Division, sounded a warning to those in attendance at the 1986 Conference of VEC's held at the FCC in Washington, DC, on August 8, 1986.

Citing unusually high pass rates, Kowalski said the Commission was very concerned about volunteer amateur radio operator testing in Puerto Rico. (See W5YI Report, August 15, 1986, p.5) While the total number of individual U.S. amateur operators has increased less than 3½% since January 1986, the Puerto Rican amateur census during this same period is up nearly 50%.

Amid unsubstantiated rumors of "irregularities", the VEC status of the Region 12 MARS-VEC, headed up by Jose E. Saldana, KP4JM, was revoked by the FCC for failure to properly handle required VEC paperwork. Saldana then applied to head up a testing team under the W5YI program. We declined to accredit him and received a letter charging that we discriminated based on "race, creed, color and age" - prohibited by §Part 97.515. We were referred to his lawyer, Saldana, Rey, Moran & Alvarado, Santurce, Puerto Rico.

On October 5, 1987, the FCC asked all Region 12 VEC's to determine if previously approved volunteer examiners should be re-accredited. "Those VE's whose performance is suspect should be dropped from accreditation. ...only those VE's in whose integrity you have absolute confidence" should be accredited, Johnston said. "If the irregularities persist after reaccreditation, we will take whatever additional action is required."



November 1, 1987

On October 9th, letters were mailed to every VE in Puerto Rico advising them that they were separated from the W5YI-VEC program. All VEC coordinated test sessions were cancelled in Puerto Rico. The ARRL-VEC did the same - and sent out League Bulletin No. 83 advising the amateur community of the FCC's decision relative to the volunteer testing program in VEC Region 12.

The testing of Novice operators in VEC Region 12, however, is not affected by the FCC's decision to require Volunteer Examiner Coordinators to wipe out their testing programs and start anew. Novices are tested under a completely separate program from that of the VEC system.

The FCC has active ongoing investigations concerning suspected fraudulently held VEC system test sessions in Puerto Rico. These investigations involve both ARRL and W5YI coordinated sessions. The Extra Class volunteer examiners could face license revocation proceedings. There are several involved.

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to institute rules prohibiting a discredited VE from participating in the testing program of another Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

- San Diego amateur, Roger S. Williams, KA7VOM, owner of "Mud Shack", a CB store, pleaded guilty to one count of a seven count indictment for selling CB linear amplifiers and CB radios modified to operate out-of-band or overpower. On October 22nd, U.S. federal magistrate Barry T. Moskowitz sentenced Williams to serve seven months imprisonment - all except ten days of which was suspended. His ten day jail term starts November 13th - after which he will be on probation for 2 years. Williams also received a \$1,000 fine.

- The FCC plans a major education and enforcement effort at the upcoming (November 2-6, Las Vegas) COMDEX/Fall 1987 computer show. Objective is to educate manufacturers, distributors and retailers on how to achieve rule compliance with the FCC's regulatory program covering computers and peripherals. An FCC information booth will be set up. In addition, FCC technical personnel

will randomly check computing devices. FCC staff attending the COMDEX/Spring 1987 show in Atlanta determined that over 60% of the devices surveyed were not in compliance. Companies displaying and offering for sale computing devices that do not meet the interference standards are subject to penalties of up to \$2,000 per day.

- Verbatim, an Eastman-Kodak subsidiary, has introduced Teflon coated 5-1/4-inch floppy disks which they claim makes the disks impervious to most commonplace office hazards such as coffee spills, food, lipstick, fingerprints ....even ice cream! Verbatim plans a \$1.2 million advertising program to convince consumers that the new disks are worth the expense. Verbatim was the No. 1 brand back in the early 1980's. They now command only an 18% market share. (Maxell is currently the leading brand.)

- Apparently there was not much truth in the front page Virgin Islands Daily News story that police communications official, Herb Schoenbaum, KV4FZ, was a legislative computer "hacker." Schoenbaum was charged with prying into the personal files of Republican Senator Holland Redfield. (See W5YI Report, Sept. 15, p.6) In any event, Virgin Islands Republican chairwoman, Charlotte P. Davis, has re-appointed Schoenbaum to fill a GOP vacancy on the Territorial Republican Committee for the District of St. Croix. An October 15th Daily News report said the hacking incident was investigated and found to be "groundless."

- Increasing cross Mexico/United States border radio interference is seriously affecting the U.S. public safety, broadcast, government and military radio services. The problem exists primarily due to the lack of a treaty between the United States and Mexico concerning border frequency assignments. While U.S. and Canadian officials work closely to eliminate co-channel border interference, such cooperation does not exist with Mexico. The problem is particularly severe in Southern California.

- Previously Australian owned, Dick Smith Electronics has been sold to one of its stateside distributors. They marketed low cost

W5YI-VEC  
P.O. Box 101-N  
Dallas, Texas 75207

HOLDING AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR CLASSES?  
and up to 1000 students? We have them!  
Every manual contains every word-for-word question,

Test Manual: 1 Ea. \$4.00  
Novice 1 Ea. \$3.50  
Tech. or Gen. 1 Ea. \$3.50

10 or more \$3.00 plus postage  
plus postage



amateur transceiver kits. New owner is American Electronics of Greenwood, Indiana. Tel: (317) 888-7265.

● On October 9, 1987, the FCC denied a series of Petitions for Reconsideration. These involved: affirming Amateur Novice operating privileges at 222.10 to 223.91 MHz. Petitioners had requested additional frequency privileges in the 1.25 meter band (220-225 MHz) for Novices in order to obtain broader access to amateur stations in repeater operation. In denying reconsideration, the FCC said the subband 222.10 to 223.91 MHz was chosen because it conforms to the national voluntary band plan. It added that there are numerous repeater stations in all parts of the country using 222.10-223.91 MHz to accommodate Novice operators who want to access them. The Commission pointed out that a Novice operator could easily obtain additional frequency privileges in the 1.25 meter band by upgrading to Technician operator.

● The FCC denied a request to permit Advanced class operators to administer the written examination for the General Class operator license. It said Amateur Extra operators have the greatest expertise in amateur radio and therefore, are the most qualified to administer examinations. The FCC also noted that there does not appear to be a shortage of volunteer examiners.

● The Commission also denied a request to change the percentage of questions on each topic for the written Novice class examination. It reiterated that, if the percentage of questions for each topic does not result in a whole number, the administering volunteer examiner can round off the number.

● The FCC has partially granted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request by Thomas Blaine Hamrick, AL7HH, of Irving, Texas, seeking FCC records on him and the Metroplex Repeater Association. The Field Operations Bureau released all FCC records pertaining to Metroplex, but withheld those concerning Hamrick under FOIA Exemption 7(a). Hamrick is currently embroiled in a law suit involving use of a coordinated repeater pair he loaned out to another repeater organization. (See W5YI Report, Aug. 1, 1987, p.10)

● The FAA and FCC should get together on the issuance of amateur call signs and aircraft registration numbers. Joe Speroni, AH0A, recently saw a commercial aircraft registered to Britt Airways at the Philadelphia Airport with the FAA registration number of N2MM. Ham call N2MM is assigned to a New Jersey Extra Class amateur. It gets confusing when aircraft pilots use their "N" registration numbers for aviation call signs!

● Users of the General Mobile Radio Service are in the process of commenting of an FCC proposal to revamp GMRS. Comment period ends November 30, 1987, on PR Docket 87-265, replies: December 31, 1987. GMRS is the successor service to the old Class A Citizens Radio Service. Basically the FCC has proposed to redirect the 460-MHz service toward personal rather than commercial interests, add low-power channels between existing channels, allow operator use of all GMRS channels, permit small base stations as well as mobile stations and to allow less-burdensome open repeater operation. GMRS "Trunking" is also being considered by the FCC - that is, calling on one channel with automatic switching to another vacant channel. Unlike the CB and Amateur Radio Service, there is a \$30.00 license fee for GMRS licenses.

● The FCC's Office in Norfolk, Virginia has moved effective October 15. New address is: 1200 Communications Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23455-3725. TGeI: (804) 441-6473

● During early October, the Question Pool Committee (chaired by Jim Clary, WB9IHH) circulated a rough draft of the Element 4(B) Extra Class syllabus to all VECs. Final approval of the syllabus will be mailed on November 1. The QPC has decided to discontinue numbering of syllabus topics - instead each topic refers to a §Part 97 rule. Extra Class (only) amateurs are invited to submit new and/or revised Element 4(B) pool questions prior to December 1st to one of the following: Jim Clary, ARRL-VEC, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111; Ray Adams, N4BAQ, WCARS-VEC, 5833 Clinton Highway #203, Knoxville, TN 37912; or R.C. Smith, W6RZA, GLAARG-VEC, 9737 Noble Avenue, Sepulveda, CA 92343. The new Extra Class pool will be released on March 1, 1988.



• YASME DX-pedition goes forth again! This time Lloyd/W6KG, and Iris/W6QL Colvin will be operating from Mexico until November 30. Operation scheduled for all bands - 10 through 160 meters, CW and SSB. As always, QSLs go to: YASME Foundation, P.O. Box #2025, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

• The Canadian Department of Communications has received a number of requests from manufacturers and importers to amend the Radio Regulations to permit the use of low-power wireless video transmitting devices in the VHF and UHF bands. The primary use of these devices is to transmit a television signal from one or more TV receivers without the need for connecting cables. The DOC said they have investigated these devices and have concluded that the potential for TV interference exists. The DOC has advised that they do not intend to permit the use of low-power wireless video transmitting devices. (Notice No. TRS-015-87) In the meantime, our FCC has proposed §Part 15 rules which would allow them! (General Docket 87-389) They aren't authorized yet, however, and the FCC fined the sellers of "TV Genie" a whopping \$940,000 for importing and marketing the illegal radiofrequency devices.

• Interesting Canadian statistic! During the period 1979 to 1985, 11,224 people took the amateur theory examination - 52% failed. Pass rate was a low 48%! Look for amateur radio testing in Canada to follow the lead of the United States - that is, to have all amateur radio operator license questions, multiple choices and correct answers released to the public. They are working on it now.

• Most of you probably know this, but this past summer the last two WARC bands were released to Canadian amateurs - 18.068 to 18.168 MHz and 24.890-24.990 MHz. No contesting and no credit for DX awards is allowed, however, to keep usage (and interference to existing users) low.

• QCWA president Leland Smith, W5KL, advises that Hugh Winter, W5HD, (Albuquerque, NM) takes over for Ethel Smith, K4LMB, (resigned) as Vice President and Elbridge Charlton, W5MD, (Baton Rouge, LA) replaces Wade Holland, WA4AZT, (died) as Director.

The election was held in accordance with the QCWA Constitution which provides that the Board will fill the unexpired terms of vacancies created by death or resignation.

• There is still no word on the selection of the new FCC Commissioner. As reported here months ago, the White House choice is Bradley Holmes, Chief of the Mass Media Bureau's Policy and Rules Division. Don't look for a routine appointment. President Reagan has not been doing too well in the appointment department lately ...and Congress is still smarting over the FCC wiping out the Fairness Doctrine which provides for required media response time from opposing parties. It is believed that Reagan will use a loophole in the law to bypass Senate confirmation. Look for Holmes to receive a "recess appointment" after Congress breaks at the end of the year. This would allow Holmes to become a Commissioner through 1988 - and the balance of Reagan's term.

• To add more confusion the the FCC Commissioner puzzle, President Reagan has nominated FCC Commissioner Mimi Dawson to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation. She is expected to get quick Senate confirmation - leaving the FCC with only three Commissioners instead of five. (Just a few years ago it was seven!) While the FCC could transact business with only three Commissioners, by law three votes are needed for final approval. One dissenting vote could block passage of any measure before the Commission. We have heard the names of Susan Wing (a D.C. communications attorney) and Craig Smith (director of the Freedom of Expression Foundation) mentioned as possible successors to Dawson. Maybe we'll see two "recess appointments."

• The FCC has submitted two amateur "collection requirements" to the Office of Management and Budget for approval as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. These concern (1.) the necessity of amateur radio stations in repeater or auxilliary operation retaining a system network diagram (§Part 97.90) and (2.) posting a station license photocopy, maintaining control operator lists and retaining a block diagram of remotely controlled stations. (§Part 97.88) OMB must approve all government required paperwork.

I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a volunteer examiner. I have never had my station c...  
unc... The "YI" part of so... case and a copy...  
of your Extra Class license this signed statement and a SASE  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?



November 1, 1987

## SEPTEMBER AMATEUR LICENSING STATS...

	September	1985	1986	1987
First Time Amateurs:		908	1619	1917
Novice Class Upgrading:		609	1080	1665
Technician Upgrading:		251	356	479
General Class Upgrading:		232	374	467
Advanced Class Upgrading:		155	313	331
Total Amateurs Upgrading:		1247	2123	2942
Total Dropped Fm Service:		2113	1548	1460
Total Novices Dropped:				896
Change/Ham Census/Month-1363			+44	+523
Month End Census:		412587	421082	430201

Extra	Advan.	Gen'l	Tech.	Novice	TOTAL:
(Sept. 1985)					
37968	97825	117340	83117	76337	412587
9.2%	23.7%	28.5%	20.1%	18.5%	
(Sept. 1986)					
40768	98195	116864	86148	79107	421082
9.7%	23.3%	27.8%	20.4%	18.8%	
(Sept. 1987)					
43214	98147	114428	91633	82779	430201
10.1%	22.8%	26.6%	21.3%	19.2%	

Club/Military/RACES Sta.	2781	2663	2430
Total Active Stations:	415368	423745	432631
Percent Increase:		2.0%	2.1%

The 1987 fiscal year is over. The government operates on an October 1 to September 30 FY. The following are highlights from the year end statistics. (Source: FCC, Gettysburg, PA.)

## HAM CENSUS - MOST POPULATED STATES:

State	(1985) Rank/Total	(1986) Rank/Total	(1987) Rank/Total
CA	1 56,960	1 58,400	1 59,944
FL	3 24,518	3 25,476	*2 26,242
NY	2 25,833	2 26,030	3 26,001
TX	4 24,408	4 24,930	4 25,495
OH	5 20,276	5 20,370	5 20,783
IL	6 17,384	6 17,446	6 17,548
PA	7 17,153	7 17,309	7 17,525
MI	8 14,212	8 14,158	8 14,259
WA	10 12,600	9 12,997	9 13,436
NJ	9 12,824	10 12,910	10 12,932

(\* = Florida now Ranks No. 2)

Amateur Census One Year Ago:	421,082
Amateur Census Two Years Ago:	412,587
Amateur Census Three Years Ago:	410,066
Amateur Census Ten Years Ago:	254,684
Amateur Census Twenty Years Ago:	260,301

## HAM CENSUS - LEAST POPULATED STATED

State	(1985) Rank/Total	(1986) Rank/Total	(1987) Rank/Total
WY	1 938	1 957	1 971
DE	2 991	2 1005	2 1014
ND	3 1026	3 1039	3 1104
SD	5 1088	4 1079	4 1111
VT	4 1027	5 1084	5 1138
MT	7 1577	6 1602	6 1581
RI	6 1575	7 1617	7 1688
AK			8 1971
ID	9 1934	8* 1930	9 2000
NV	10 1942	10 1981	10 2078
HI	8 1907	8* 1930	11 2168

(\* = Tie)

## HEALTH OF THE HOBBY - 1985, 1986, 1986

	New Amateurs			Purged Records		
Month	1985	1986	1987	1985	1986	1987
Oct.	992	1413	874	510	2623	986
Nov.	1310	1074	1404	627	1296	770
Dec.	1597	2579	1826	343	1804	970
Jan.	1380	1501	2248	405	879	510
Feb.	1278	1889	1889	554	1603	690
Mar.	2051	1676	795	518	1237	1282
Apr.	2100	2826	2950	389	1755	2053
May	2200	1017	6797	1364	1661	1263
Jun.	1218	2067	1850	513	1779	1842
Jul.	1478	2899	870	2416	2549	1551
Aug.	1335	1406	918	2817	1834	2026
Sep.	908	1619	1917	2156	1588	1460
Total	17848	21956	24338	12612	20608	15231
Increase		+4108	+2382		+7996	-5377

(Note: New Amateurs are first time amateur operators added to "Master File". Purged Records are deleted records. There are 471,046 amateurs in the "Master File" which includes amateurs whose license has expired, but still are within the "grace" period. Basically the above statistics show that 24,338 amateurs joined the amateur ranks for the first time - 15,231 departed.)

## CENSUS BY CALL SIGN FORMAT - 1985/86/87

Gp:	(1985)	(1986)	(1987)
A:	24,563 5.9%	26,045 6.2%	27,026 6.3%
B:	19,784 4.8%	21,144 5.0%	22,709 5.3%
C:	139,040 33.7%	141,674 33.6%	144,627 33.6%
D:	228,588 55.4%	231,649 55.0%	235,312 54.7%
(*)	612 .2%	570 .2%	527 .1%
	412,587	421,082	430,201

(\*="Other" call sign formats. "A"=1X2, 2X1 & certain 2X2, "B"=2X2, "C"=3X1, "D"=2X3.)



## UPGRADING HAMS CHANGING CALL SIGNS

Year	Upgraded	Changed Call	Percent
1985	20,298	8,656	42.6%
1986	22,228	9,907	44.4%
1987	23,814	10,589	46.4%

● The Piedras Negras Radio Club A.C. celebrated their 20th Anniversary on October 9th with a celebration party. The City of Piedras Negras is right across the Mexican border from Eagle Pass, Texas. Rogelio Olivares, Assistant Director, Asociacion De Radioaficionados De La Republica Mexicana, A.C. (ARARM) was in attendance. He invited U.S. radio amateurs to attend the 16th National Congress to be held in Colima, Col. Mexico, on July 14, 15 and 16, 1988. It was the opinion of Pablo Garcia, Jr., XE2V, N5JW that this is when Mexico will announce an amateur reciprocal operating arrangement with the United States. The Piedras Negras Radio Club plans to charter a bus to attend the meeting. Garcia, an American citizen who lives in Eagle Pass, is a Director of International Relations for Mexico. He can assist any amateur wishing to obtain a temporary "XE2" Mexican amateur radio license. (Mail address: 560 S. Bibb Drive, Eagle Pass, Texas 78852 - Tel: 512-773-3511.)

● We have answered this before, but we keep getting questions about when the various amateur radio operator question pools will change. Following is the official:

### QUESTION POOL REVISION SCHEDULE

NEW QUESTION POOLS:	Novice & Technician (2 & 3A)	General & Advanced (3B & 4A)	Extra Class (4B)
Released:	2/1/89	2/1/90	3/1/88
Used in Tests	11/1/89	11/1/89	11/1/88

As you can see - no changes for a year and then only the Extra Class will change.

● The FCC has amended the wording of §Part 97.61(c) that permits F8E emission to be transmitted on "all frequencies 0.35 meters and above" to "on the 0.35 meter and shorter wavelength amateur service bands." The editorial changes was due to a Petition for Reconsideration filed by David B. Popkin, W2CC - an ex-FCC employee. Popkin felt that amateurs might get meters and frequencies confused and transmit F8E on higher

number meter bands - which is actually lower in frequency. F8E emission allows stations to transmit with two or more channels of analog voice information on a single frequency. (The 0.35 meter ham band is 902-928 MHz.)

● Forget about purchasing those "Phone Wire Maintenance Plans." They aren't worth the money! Telcos are allowed to charge whatever the market will bear to repair inside telephone wiring. New York Telephone spent \$33 million to service inside wiring in 1985 and got a hefty \$244 million in revenues! You can easily add, install or repair your own telephone wiring! There is absolutely nothing to it. All you have to do to check out a telephone problem is go to where the telephone network enters your house and hook up a telephone across a wire pair. Don't call the phone company until you do this! If you get a dial tone, the trouble is yours - if the phone is dead, its the phone company's problem which must be fixed free! AT&T will even help you track down an inside phone wire problem by dialling (toll-free) 800-222-3111.

● Satellite broadcaster, FM America went off the air on Tuesday, October 20th. Some say FMA will never return. HDO, Home Dish Only, the satellite transponder owner, pulled FMA's plug when they received a check that bounced from Keith Lamonica, W7DXX, of Murray, Utah. Lamonica is host of the satellite sub-carrier delivered show. He is supposedly under a number of federal and state investigations for the mishandling of credit cards, firearms, wife beating, bad checks, manipulation of FMA's penny-stock ...and more! One underground newsletter calls him Keith LaMythical, ...his followers - LaManiacs. At least two industry publications, "Satellite Dealer" and "Satellite Times" have written articles about Lamonica's antics. The nightly show, broadcast direct to backyard satellite dish owners on Spacenet 1, Channel 18, Audio Transponder 6.2, asked listeners to send him money to keep his operation afloat TV evangelist style. Apparently many did.

● Apparently the CTIA (Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association) is still trying to get receiving scanners capable of receiving communications protected under the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of



1986 banned. The FCC is currently considering rulemaking that will require that a label be affixed to scanners advising users that improper use may violate the Privacy Act. CTIA recently made an ex parte presentation to the FCC opposing labelling and enhancing their position that "manufacturers should not be able to shift their responsibility under the Privacy Act onto the consumer who purchases and uses a scanner which is designed and manufactured to be capable of intercepting cellular (telephone) communications." They urge the FCC to deny the Petition for Rule-making.

- The State of California is considering Constitutional Amendment No. 36 that will give electronic communicators the same freedom-of-expression and privacy protection afforded to press and spoken communications. The legislation specifies that personal information stored in electronic information systems and data bases be included in the guarantees against unwarranted search and seizure.

- Amateur Douglas W. Webbink, Ph.D., WD4KWY, has been appointed Assistant Chief for Economics in the Mass Media Bureau's Policy and Rules Division. He previously was an economist with the Federal Trade Commission. Between 1978 and 1982, Webbink served as Deputy Chief of the FCC's Office of Plans and Policy.

- Broadcast expansion coming! Hundreds of new television stations could be going on the air within the next year or two - particularly in rural areas! On October 16th the FCC announced its intention to grant nearly 500 new low power television and television translator station applications. And as a result of international agreements, about half of the 41 daytime only AM radio broadcasters operating on 1540 kHz have been given nighttime operation permission.

- The FCC has affirmed that RF lighting devices will continue to be subject to the interference standards specified in §Part 18. Developed following the energy crisis of the late 1970's, RF lighting refers to the production of light by use of RF stimulated gases. While found to have a longer life and be more

energy efficient, radio frequency lighting devices also have the potential to interfere with such authorized telecommunications services as AM broadcasting and amateur radio. The FCC said they will be monitoring development of RF lighting due to constantly changing technology. (Report & Order, October 9, 1987, Gen. Docket 83-806.)

- While we know ATV - Advanced Television Technology, is the mode of the future - what we don't know is what form it will take. FCC Chairman Patrick has named a distinguished blue-ribbon panel of television industry leaders to serve on the FCC's Advisory ATV Committee. Patrick said it "would rely heavily on this committee to recommend policies, standards and regulations to facilitate the orderly and timely introduction of the next generation of television service for all Americans." The committee will be assisted by three subcommittees covering planning, systems and implementation. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for November 17, 1987. There will be three meetings a year. Former FCC Commission Chairman Richard E. Wiley chairs the ATV Committee. Other members come from such firms as HBO, Warner Bros, Knight-Ridder, Zenith, CBS, Newsweek, Bell Communications, ABC, Quasar, Westinghouse, Sony, NBC, Fox, Hubbard & Tribune Broadcasting, PBS ...among others. The Federal Register of October 16 outlines the objectives of the ATV Committee.

- Undoubtedly the ATV Committee will be "focusing" on High Definition Video. Whether the system recommended is the Japanese 1,125 line-per-screen format (twice today's 525-line resolution) is a matter of speculation. HBO apparently is in favor of it.

- We have been looking into the legalities of pirate broadcasting from international waters - that is, outside a nation's claimed territorial limit. The ITU specifically prohibits routine broadcasting from ships. Furthermore Article 24(1) of the 1958 Geneva Convention allows a country to extend its authority to an additional 12 miles beyond its claimed territorial limit "to stop smuggling and environmental damage". The problem is, beyond this point, enforcement rests with the nation where the



November 1, 1987

ship is registered. Some nations such as Panama apparently don't want to get involved. Britain's AM pirates, Radio Caroline and Laser 558 broadcast from a vessel of Panamanian registry in the North Sea and are apparently anchored more than 12 miles beyond the British claimed territorial limit. That is, if the U.K. recognizes that Article 24(1) applies. The "Sarah", U.S. pirate ship of RNI (Radio Newyork International), was anchored off New York beyond the U.S. claimed 3-mile territorial limit. The U.S., however, had the permission of Honduras where the vessel was registered to board and shut down the station.

● The inspector general of the U.S. Information Agency charges that mismanagement of the modernization of Voice of America's transmitters is causing an increase in costs. The report was leaked to the Washington Post which printed it. The VOA disputed the findings.

● In a possibly related incident, the U.S. State Department has blocked a \$50 million appropriation that would have allowed the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty to broadcast to the Central Soviet Union from Israel. The Israelis were originally reluctant to accept the transmitter fearing that Moscow might retaliate by placing further restrictions on Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. Radio Moscow is currently beaming their 300-kw North American Service to Florida from Cuba on 1040 kHz. Cuba maintains that it has an international right to the frequency.

● The FCC has had its 1988-89 funding approved at \$107,250,000 for FY 1988 and \$109,250,000 for FY 1989 by the House. A number of stipulations were tagged to the authorization bill. No mention was made of the "Fairness Doctrine" which the FCC recently struck down. A Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$104.9 million for the FCC. The full Senate has yet to act of the authorization bill.

● Swedish studies have linked electromagnetic radiation to health problems. Swedish medical researchers say that even low level VDT radiation presents a risk to

nant women. VDTs are computer Video Display Terminals. Previously researchers felt that VDT electromagnetic fields were too weak to cause harm.

● Technology Review, edited at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology suggests a link between cancer and extremely low frequency (ELF) fields created by electrical power lines. U.S. juries are making sizeable awards on available data which is still far from proven. The utility industry realizes that the power line cancer dispute will not be settled without more research. Studies have shown that couples who use electric blankets are more likely to have pregnancies that end in miscarriage. The Reagan administration has consistently slashed budgets for research on the health effects of non-ionizing radiation. (October 1987 issue)

● The FCC's Office of Plans and Policy (OPP) has issued its second progress report on the status of the home satellite dish market. The report concludes that no government intervention in that market is warranted at this time. The FCC notes that several channels have begun full-time addressable scrambling, a few more have chosen to use the VideoCipher II system and some additional program packages have been announced. Furthermore the supply of VC-II decoders have been substantially increased. The report points out that "piracy" (the use of altered VC-II units to obtain programming without payment) continues to be a problem and that the legal (copyright) status of TV superstation sales to home satellite disk households remains in question. (Report released October 6, 1987)

● The Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association (SBCA) home satellite four-day trade show was held last month in Nashville. SBCA Chairman Taylor Howard said that one day 50 million homes will have a satellite dish. He put the best estimate of the number of homes with dishes today at between 1.7 and 2 million. Satellite signal scrambling caused sales of dishes to fall from a rate of 50,000 in late 1985 to 15,000 a month today. Thousands of dish retailers have gone out of business. According to industry experts, there are between 50,000 and 100,000 pirate decoders in use today.

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● Motorola has a new digital taxicab dispatcher which could make voice dispatching obsolete! Calls are automatically flashed on an LCD terminal of the closest taxicab. The driver pushes a button to accept the fare.

● Psion, Ltd., a British Company has sold 60,000 9-ounce calculator-sized computers in the U.S. Cost is \$159.95 They have a two-line LCD display and accept solid state memory units (storage devices) called "Datapaks."

● Hotels that remember guest's preferences are here! Eloquent Systems is marketing a computer system that stores one million guest histories over the past sixteen years to hotels. Information entered can include dates of stay, rate, bed type, number of adults and children, section of hotel and view preferred. The system automatically selects the accommodations that best fits the guest's wishes.

● "Shop the World" Home Shopping comes to video cassettes next month. The cassettes are rented by the public free of cost from video stores. Video dealers get a 10% discount on any of the upscale products purchased from the tape. The VCR tapes will be distributed to some 5,000 rental outlets. A public offering of 25 million shares in the VCR venture quickly sold out!

● Philip's showed an Automotive Navigation System at a recent Berlin consumer electronics fair that determined a car's location and then using sensors built into the car's wheels directed the driver to a specific location. A driver tells an onboard computer where he wishes to go and inserts a CD-I disc containing the necessary traffic and route information. A TV screen displays visual maps and information while a voice synthesizer built into the stereo system actually advises the driver which direction to drive. The product is aimed at commercial vehicles such as delivery vans and taxicabs.

● RDS (Radio Data Signal), another Berlin fair product, is a subaudible data subcarrier transmitted with FM broadcasting. It allows car stereo radios to display station call letters, musical format or any other alphanumeric information. The display can also carry advertising.

## "COPY-CODE" PROTECTION OF D.A.T.

Recording artists are not convinced that it is the answer to protecting their copyrighted music. The RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) is attempting to get a law passed that audibly damages the music itself. "Copy-coded" DAT (new digital audio tape) recordings will contain a "notch" of missing audio frequencies centered around 3,840 Hz. A DAT recorder will listen for 3,840 Hz. If it is there, the recorder shuts down a recording in progress for 25 seconds.

Senate Bill S-506 (introduced by Senator Albert Gore D., Tenn.) requires the inclusion of "copy-code" scanners in all digital audio devices. A duplicate bill in the House (H.R.1384) was authored by Rep. Henry Waxman (D., Calif.) All recordings sold in any format, be it CD, cassette or vinyl must contain the "notch".

One recording studio owner said "copy-code" protection is similar to requiring missing letters on copyrighted documents so they can not be effectively photocopied. It works, but the document is ruined. Now Congress has asked the National Bureau of Standards to determine if the notch degrades the recordings. If it does, the bills could die. The tests will be made by an independent consultant and not the NBS.

## OLD "CC", THE FIRST "VOICE OF AMERICA"

The first radio signal to span the Atlantic took place on December 12, 1901, when a series of telegraphic "S's", transmitted from England, were heard at Signal Hill, Newfoundland. Few know that this remarkable feat was really scheduled for America.

We were recently on vacation in our home state (Massachusetts - our original call was WINTK) and had an opportunity to visit what was to have been the receiving site of the first trans-Atlantic wireless transmission from England by Guglielmo Marconi ...South Wellfleet, on Cape Cod.

The timbers from the huge wooden towers are still there - protected by the U.S. National Park Service in the Cape Cod National Seashore. Some are under water now

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since Cape Cod is slowly eroding away at the rate of three feet a year.

After Heinrich Hertz demonstrated the existence of electric and magnetic waves, Marconi began dreaming of a way to send messages from transmitter to receiver without the aid of wires. In 1894 he was able to detect an electric wave 30 feet away - in 1895, it was one mile. Using more powerful equipment it was ten, then twenty, then fifty miles. By 1901 a 200 mile range was achieved. Wireless telegraphy became the rage of Europe ...then America. Marconi thought magnetic waves could leap the ocean! The great American electric inventor, Thomas A. Edison, said it was impossible!

South Wellfleet, Massachusetts, jutting out into the ocean on the arm of Cape Cod, was selected by Marconi as the western-most tip of America. It offered an unobstructed straight line path to Poldhu on the English coast where, in 1901, Marconi had constructed a powerful station. Marconi paid \$250 for eight acres of otherwise worthless Cape Cod land - now worth millions!

The South Wellfleet station was modeled after the one in Poldhu, England. A circular series of twenty 200-foot ship's masts were planted in the sandy soil about 165 feet from the ocean. Then disaster struck. The circular ring of towers in both England and South Wellfleet blew down in storms. Each tower pulled the next one down. The Poldhu antenna was replaced with a "V"-shaped aerial between two salvaged 150-foot masts.

The western leg of the trans-Atlantic experiment was then transferred from Cape Cod to St. John's, Newfoundland. It was pre-arranged that the three-dot Morse code signal would be transmitted from Poldhu starting December 11, 1901. The following day it was heard! What Thomas A. Edison said was impossible had been accomplished - magnetic waves could span the great oceans!

To Marconi's dismay, a Newfoundland cable company had exclusive communications rights. Four days later, Marconi was served with a Cease and Desist Order and required to vacate Signal Hill. The Canadian

government offered Marconi another site at Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

A new set of four (210 foot high) towers was constructed at South Wellfleet in 1902. On January 18th, 1903, Marconi himself tapped out a telegraphic message that was to have been relayed to England through Glace Bay. All involved were stunned when the reception acknowledgement came direct from Poldhu, England!

The message was greetings on behalf of the American people from President Theodore Roosevelt to His Majesty, King Edward VII. A return message to the president from "Edward R. & I" was received. The texts of both messages made the front page of the New York Times. The age of two-way communication between Europe and the New World had begun.

From that day forth, European news was relayed to the New York Times through Cape Cod. Ocean-going vessels adopted Marconi's apparatus to receive news broadcasts. Business and social messages could be sent to Europe for fifty cents a word.

Local Cape Cod residents could hear the crashing spark some four miles away. Telegraphers operating at 17 words per minute manned the Cape Cod station for some fifteen years when, due to erosion and threatened by collapse, the station closed, never to reopen. Old "CC" was replaced by "WCC" in Chatham, Massachusetts in 1920.

The QCWA has installed a replica in the National Park Service Headquarters building at South Wellfleet of the original spark gap transmitter which made the historic first two way trans-Atlantic radio contact. If you visit Cape Cod, we recommend you look up what is one of the nation's little known historic landmarks ...Station "CC" - the first "Voice of America."

Much of the information for this piece came from park historian Michael E. Whatley, of the Cape Cod National Seashore, who has spent years researching and writing the Marconi/Cape Cod story. We enjoyed sharing it with you. See you in two weeks.